

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A metering system for preparing an emulsion paint from two or more aqueous paint components in the desired composition, having a mixing vessel with a feed region and having a container for each paint component, each container being connected via a conveying line to a ~~mixing~~filling head disposed in the feed region of the mixing vessel, each conveying line having a metering valve in the feed region, and the metering valves being connected to a control apparatus in order to control the metering of the paint components in accordance with the desired composition, comprising the improvement wherein the containers for the aqueous paint components are formed by watertight bags having a capacity of 200 liters to 1500 liters in order to protect against microbial infestation, and the internal volume of the bags contracts on discharge in accordance with the volume of the contents, the bags standing on a pallet which is provided with a support from which the bag is suspended, the conveying lines are connected to the lower region of each bag, and each conveying line being provided with a conveying pump.

10. (Previously presented) The metering system of claim 9, characterized by a balance for weighing the mixing vessel.

11. (Previously presented) The metering system of claim 10, characterized in that beside the balance a shaker is disposed.

12. (Previously presented) The metering system of claim 9, characterized in that the control apparatus is provided with a printer for a label to be applied to the mixing vessel.

13. (Previously presented) The metering system of claim 12, characterized in that the printer prints the data for settlement at the till on the label.

14. (Previously presented) The use of the system of claim 9, for preparing and dispensing aqueous emulsion paints to end customers.

15. (Currently amended) A metering system for preparing an emulsion paint from two or more aqueous paint components in a desired composition, said metering system comprising:

a mixing vessel having a feed region for receiving aqueous paint components in selected volumes to form said emulsion patent;

a ~~mixing~~filling head in the feed region of the mixing vessel which mixes said aqueous paint components for discharge into said mixing vessel;

a plurality of flexible bags having a capacity of 200 liters to 1500 liters which each contain a respective one of said aqueous paint components and which are watertight and gastight so as to protect against microbial infestation of said aqueous paint components, said bags having lower bag regions from which contents of said bags are discharged for conveyance to said ~~mixing~~filling head during mixing of the aqueous paint components, each said bag for each said aqueous paint component being connected respectively to a conveying line which said conveying line connects to said lower bag region and to a ~~mixing~~said filling head disposed in the feed region of the mixing vessel, said bags having a variable internal bag volume wherein the internal bag volume contracts on discharge of the contents in accordance with the volume of the contents being discharged;

each said conveying line having a pump which generates an underpressure in said bag to effect discharge of said aqueous paint components from said lower bag region and contraction of said internal bag volume, and having a metering valve in the feed region which meters the selected volume of said aqueous paint components flowing to said mixing head, the metering valves being connected to a control apparatus in order to control the metering of the paint components in accordance with the desired composition; and

each of said bags being supported by a respective support pallet having an upward facing pallet surface on which the bag stands to support the contents in a lower bag end, said pallet including an upstanding support from which the bag is suspended, said support being engaged with a top bag end and maintaining said bag in a vertically elongate condition during contraction of said bag and said internal bag volume during discharge of the contents.

16. (Previously presented) The metering system of Claim 15, wherein a plurality of said pallets are provided which are independently transportable and positioned in a stationary position during mixing, each of said pallets supporting a respective one of said bags thereon in said vertically elongate condition.

17. (Previously presented) The metering system of Claim 16, wherein each of said pallets has said support on one side of said support surface which extends vertically and overlies said top bag end which is suspended therefrom.

18. (Currently amended) The metering system of Claim 17, wherein said lower bag region includes an opening connected to said respective conveying line, which said opening is disposed above said pallet surface with said conveying line and discharges to one side of said bag and said pallet through said conveying line, ~~said opening being maintained open by~~

~~said support maintaining said bag in said vertically elongate condition.~~